

(d) if so, the impact of these changes on the cost of the defence supplies and promotional avenues of the staff?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Extension of MRTP Act to Cover Services Sector and Co-Operatives

3694. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for extending the ambit of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act to cover the Services Sector and Co-operatives; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAGALAM): (a) and (b). The MRTP Act, 1969, already applies to the 'Services' sector as defined in Section 2(r) of the Act. The Act has also been extended to Co-operative Societies vide Notification GSR No.605 (E) dated 27th September, 1991 issued under Section 3 of the Act.

Economic Offences

3695. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared some economic offences as criminal offences; and

(b) if so, the details of such offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Provision has been made for prosecution in a court of law for various economic offences such as those specified in Chapter XXII of the Income Tax Act, Chapter VIII of the Wealth Tax Act, section 9 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, section 135 of the Customs Act and section 56 of FERA, etc.

Export Potential of Bihar

3696. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the Export Potential of Bihar;

(b) if so, the names of the exportable items in Bihar; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A study was conducted by the Trade Development Authority in 1988.

(b) Major non-engineering product groups identified for export are:

Handlooms - Silk and Cotton; leather manufactures; handicrafts; and processed fruits;

(c) The Government of Bihar and Bihar Chamber of Commerce are taking action on the study.